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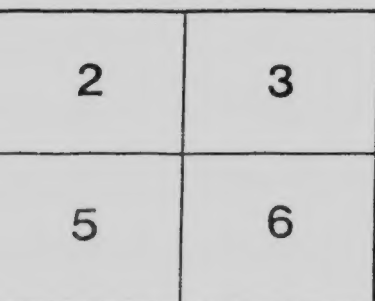
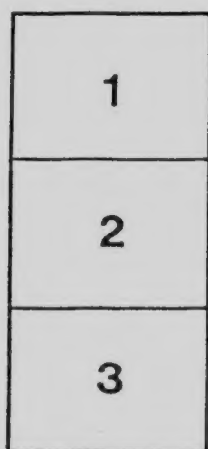
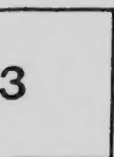
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J. W. WEART

LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR

SOUTH VANCOUVER
: CONSTITUENCY :

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Speech delivered at New Westminster 3rd



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Speech Delivered at New West-
ster, 3rd May, 1916, under the
auspices of the

YOUNG MEN'S LIBERAL CLUB



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VICTORIA, B. C.

Speech Delivered at New West-
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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I assure you that I deem it a pleasure and a privilege to appear before a Westminster audience under the auspices of the Young Men's Liberal Club and speak in support of your candidate, Mr. David Whiteside, a gentleman of standing in the community and one who can be relied upon in giving his very best efforts in support of legislation in the interests of the whole Province.

In the adjacent riding (South Vancouver), I have the honor of being the Liberal candidate. After some 14 months, my opponent, Mr. Stuart Campbell, has seen fit to retire under pressure of business, and in his place the Government supporters have nominated the Rev. William Boulton to be the standard bearer, whose task it will be to try and satisfy the electors (who are in a rebellious mood) that the return of the Government, and, of course, himself, as their member, will be in their best interests. The reverend gentleman's acceptance of the nomination means that he is quite satisfied with, and endorses the Government, its leader, its past acts of omission and commission, and its present very lame attempt to coerce the public into believing that it has been and is sincere in its interests and wellbeing. Mr. Boulton must have satisfied the Hon. the Premier, that he would be a staunch supporter and follower of his, if elected, and the Premier must have believed that in Mr. Boulton he had obtained another to whom he could say, "Do this," and he doeth it, because he has, after 30 years, removed the embargo prohibiting members of the ministry from taking a seat in the House, by amending the "Constitution Act" of the Province.

Mr. Chairman, your Secretary intimated that the subject matter of my remarks this evening was to be left to myself. Not knowing what particular question, out of the many questions of public interest, would be the most suitable, I have decided to touch on two or three matters in the time allotted to me.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES LUMBER

The principal factor in the upbuilding of a country is the development of its natural resources.

British Columbia is rich in her resources of timber, minerals, agriculture and fisheries. Are they being developed to the extent they should be, and are they each contributing their fair share of the revenue of the Province? I will tonight take up, in a measure, the first two—timber and minerals—and endeavor to show that a helping hand is necessary to the full development of each, and that the revenue derived therefrom is manifestly unequal.

It will, I think, be admitted that at the present stage of development of our natural resources, the lumbering industry ranks first, with the mineral industry a close second.

Mr. Raphael (Manager of the North Pacific Coast Lumber Co.) in an excellent paper read before the Rotary Club on "Preferential Trade with Australia in Lumber," stated that the export trade to Australia alone from the Pacific North West (Washington, Oregon and British Columbia), had increased from 61 million feet in 1902 to over 238 million feet in 1913, or over 390 per cent. British Columbia's share of that trade decreased from 33 per cent. in 1902 to 4 per cent. in 1913.

The combined shipments to all parts of the world in 1913 reached a total of 600 million feet, 40 per cent. going to Australia, 20 per cent. to South America, 21½ per cent. to China and Japan, and 18½ per cent. to all other points, showing conclusively that Australia is our most important and natural market. Of the 170 American vessels owned on the Pacific Coast, used in the carrying trade, mill owners and lumber dealers own 50, while not one schooner is owned in British Columbia.

For the year 1914, the lumbering industry produced \$28,000,000.00.

It has been said by Chief Forrester, H. R. Mac-Millan, in a paper given by him at Tacoma, December 7th, 1914, that it costs on an average \$12.00 per

M. feet to produce lumber. That lumber is being sold for \$10.00 to \$12.00 per M. feet, the loss being from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per M. feet.

It is said that the lumberman's dollar is the world's best traveller—.40c going to transportation; .35c to labor; .15c to merchants; .10c for interest on capital; or, as Mr. Raphael puts it—"A careful estimate of the expenditure during normal times for one year (exclusive of shingles or factory work), is as follows:

Wages	\$11,025,000
Food supplies to Operators only	3,353,000
Mills and Logging Supplies	1,575,000
Towing, Coast	800,000
	<hr/>
	\$16,753,000

In British Columbia, the carrying cost of the 150 billion feet of timber alienated by the Government is about .1c per M. feet per annum, on an average stand of 25,000 feet per acre, and a royalty when cut, of .50c. This timber so held is not subject to further taxation.

For the year ending 31st March, 1915, the lumbering industry contributed to the Provincial Treasury \$1,881,541; in 1914, \$2,556,000; in 1913, over \$2,500,000; in 1912, over 2 1-3 millions. The estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1916, show that the industry is expected to net the Treasury \$1,880,000, made up as follows:

From Licenses and Leases	\$1,435,000
From Royalties	400,000
From Timber Sales	45,000

With an industry such as this, with timber as one of our chief resources, with nearly half the mills idle or running on part time, with the millmen losing money, with no means of marketing our surplus cut overseas, is it not time that some means should be adopted to stimulate this trade, of which 50 per cent. of its value is distributed to the workmen and to the merchants?

True, that prior to the Bye-elections, the Government appointed Mr. Tisdall to obtain information touching this very complex question. Information more important than any Mr. Tisdall could gather at that time (purely for election purposes) was in

the hands of the Government in 1914, and I submit that a business government ought to have full knowledge at all times relative to all industries in the Province, and not wait until it is spurred into action by an indignant people, to take steps to remedy existent ills.

Any assistance that is given by the Government with a view of assisting the export of lumber must be in the form of encouraging the building of a fleet of lumber carriers, owned or controlled by the timber interests themselves, or the object of the bill would be defeated.

Would it not be a good business policy on the part of the Government to encourage the incorporation of a company amongst the lumber and mill owners for the purpose of building and operating a fleet of lumber carriers, guaranteeing the bonds of such company, granting a tonnage bonus if necessary, and taking as security a mortgage on the fleet; and, because of the fact that it will be difficult at all times to obtain full return cargoes, to bonus the ships, to make up for loss tonnage by remitting to the owners, the millmen, a percentage of the royalty on the lumber exported. This would give the trade control of certain shipping, which, with such vessels as could be chartered, would enable it to market a very much larger percentage of the cut than is possible under existing conditions.

MINERAL INDUSTRY

It will, I think, be conceded that the mineral industry will in the near future, even without assistance, and notwithstanding the penalizing legislation in effect, outstrip the lumbering industry.

The output from the mines has increased from \$17,000,000 in 1902, to over \$30,000,000 in 1915. The latest statements at hand show that there are about twenty shippers in the upper country. The Standard Silver-lead Co., paid in dividends in the past three years \$1,550,000, or 27½ per cent. on its capital. In 1914 it paid \$475,000, or 27½ per cent. The "Hedley" paid over 26 per cent. dividends. The profits of the "Brittania" in 1914 were nearly \$437,000, or 26.8 per cent. on its capital. This Company has a most valuable property. Development work has shown posi-

tive ore value to the extent of \$36,750,000; another body of 16,000,000 tons of \$8.00 ore gives a value of \$128,000,000. This Company has expended some \$6,000,000 to date on properties, development, buildings, machinery, timber and water rights. Of this sum about \$2,000,000 was profit out of the mine. This Company has won from mother earth some \$8,500,000 since it started operations. It is now employing nearly 1000 men and with its 1850 ton plant it will be probably the largest producing plant in British Columbia, surpassing the Granby plant of 7000 tons, owing to its higher grade ore. The copper production of the Province is now about 75,000 tons, at .16c per lb., gives a mineral wealth of \$24,000,000.

Of the 25½ millions paid in dividends by the mining companies of B. C., the "Granby" has paid over \$5,700,000, or nearly 25 per cent. of the total. This Company sold, in the year ending June 30th, 1915, copper, gold and silver metal to the value of over \$5,000,000. These figures are taken from their balance sheet. Their net profits for the year were over \$929,000.00. The surplus profits from preceding years carried forward were over \$2,700,000. This Company has assets of 22 3-4 millions; liabilities to the public of a little over \$4,000,000.

What revenue does the Government receive from this industry? Let us turn to the public accounts, which show actual revenue received. For the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1914, we find that the total receipts from the mining industry were \$352,353, made up as follows:

Mining Receipts General	92,919
Tax on Unworked Claims	45,953
Mineral Tax	153,880
Compare these amounts with the revenue from Free Miners' Certificates	\$ 59,591

\$352,343

In 1915 the receipts were \$290,790, in like proportions.

Compare these amounts with the revenue from lumber for the same years, being 600 per cent. more than from the mining industry. The estimates for the year ending March 31st, 1916, show that the Government expected to obtain as revenue from the

mining industry, \$240,000, \$50,000 of this sum is for Free Miners' Licenses; \$40,000 taxes on Unworked Mining Claims; \$50,000 from General Minnig Receipts and \$100,000 from the 2 per cent. Mineral Tax on the value of ore production.

Again, compare this with \$1,880,000 expected from the lumbering industry for the same period. Of this vast sum, \$400,000 is for royalty, which would represent a cut of 800 million feet at .50c per M. feet, which at \$10.00 cost of manufacture, gives a forest wealth of \$8,000,000.

Now take the mineral tax from the same source (that is, the mineral tax on ore produced, not that which is in the mines or in the unworked claims, but the ore taken out of the mines), to correspond to the actual timber cut from the forest, at a 2 per cent. tax to give \$100,000, the mines of British Columbia will only have to produce \$5,000,000 in mineral wealth. Would it not be reasonable to suppose that if \$8,000,000 worth of timber produced revenue to the extent of \$400,000, that \$8,000,000 worth of mineral should produce a like amount, all things being equal? At the 2 per cent. tax, the revenue for that production would only be \$166,000, against \$400,000, but are the two industries equal? I submit not, as the millmen are not making money (and some are losing), while the oreshippers are making handsome dividends and proving up by development out of profits, vast reserve bodies of ore riches.

It may be said that this is not the economic way to figure the revenue from the two industries. I do not think it is. Let us take another way.

For the purpose of this address, we must eliminate all receipts from standing timber, that is from Licenses and Leases, and treat only with the royalty revenue in comparison with the Mineral Tax of 2 per cent. on ore production.

\$400,000 Timber Royalty at .50c per M. feet is calculated on the estimated cut being 800 million feet. Timber on the stump is worth from .50c to \$2.50—take the average \$1.50 per M., which I submit is fair. 800 million feet at \$1.50 per M. gives a timber value of \$1,200,000. Now if \$1,200,000 worth of timber at \$1.50 gives \$400,000 Royalty, ore value to a like

amount should give a like revenue, other conditions being equal. Let us look at this for a moment. The net profits of the Granby Co. for the year was \$929,000. No fault can be found if we say that this amount, being profit, should be taxable, which, if taxed at the same rate as lumber, would pay \$309,600.

According to the "B. C. Mining Record," the "Brittania" copper ore is now being mined and freighted to Tacoma, smelted and refined at a gross cost of .8c a pound. The "Brittania" mined (so far as available records show) in 1914 — 240,272 tons yielding 213 oz. Gold; 68,515 oz. Silver; 11,846,000 lbs. Copper of the value of \$1,640,000. The cost of producing copper at .8c is approximately \$1,000,000, leaving a profit of over \$640,000. On the same basis of taxation as timber, this should yield \$216,000, or from the "Brittania" and "Granby" we would have, for the current year, \$525,000 revenue, as against \$100,000 estimated mineral tax from the whole province. Or, if the "Granby" out of its gross dividends contributed revenue equal to the lumber Royalty tax, it would have paid into the Treasury \$1,900,000, or more than the total mineral tax receipts from the whole Province for the past fifteen years.

Let me read to you an extract which appeared in the "Daily Province" of December 16th last:

"With four exceptions every important silver-lead mine in the Slocan is owned or controlled by Spokane interests, which have received, according to a report prepared by American Consul-General R. E. Mansfield, \$8,000,000 in dividends and profits, or probably four times the amount of the original investment. A recent visit to Slocan, Boundary and adjacent districts by a large party of Spokane mining men has stimulated interest in that section of the country."

If this \$8,000,000 profits, paid to American shareholders, paid the same share of taxes as timber at .50c per M. Royalty, the Government would have received from these mines alone some \$1,000,000 more revenue than it has received from all of the mines in British Columbia for 12 years.

Again, I ask, is the mineral wealth of this Province, which is the heritage of our people, contribu-

ting its fair share of revenue? Is there not something radically wrong in the way in which these two industries are being taxed?

If the lumber interests are now satisfied with the carrying charges and royalty imposed, and I have failed to find any complaint as to the rate, then it is apparent that the mineral industry is not contributing to the revenue of the province its just share. What is the remedy, or is there a remedy? Let us guard against any legislation that would in the slightest degree retard the investment of capital in the development of our Province, but let us encourage the industry by removing the penalty of \$50,000 (in the estimates) for Free Miners' Licenses, and charge a nominal sum of .25c for record purposes only. Remove the present tax on ore production. Reduce the recording fees. Establish one or more Customs smelters to enable small shippers to get their ore treated at cost, and in connection therewith to maintain free assaying laboratories, thus taking from the shoulders of those who are bringing their properties up to the producing stage, a tax, which they must now pay out of capital account, and encourage the prospecting for new fields and new mineral deposits.

Legislate to prevent mineral lands being closed indefinitely to development and operation; let an earnest endeavor be made to promote and establish the iron and steel industry; let the tax on minerals be confined to a just and fair tax on the profits and place an export tax on all ore shipped out of the Province to smelters or refiners and build up an industry in British Columbia to treat all British Columbia ores.

I will not at this time go into any other phases of this subject. It is a large question and has many details to be considered. You will, I think, admit that it is imperative, in the interests of the people, that certain and drastic changes must be made in the administration of the affairs of the Province in order to bring prosperity to its citizens from natural and legitimate enterprises, such as lumbering and mining.

LAND QUESTION

What has the Government done toward the settle-

ment of our vacant arable land? What has the Government done to enable those already on the land to bring it to a profitable producing stage? What steps have the Government taken to prevent the annual outlay of from 20 to 25 millions of dollars for food stuffs which could, and should be grown in our own Province?

The answer must be a negative answer, except perhaps, that the Government at its last session did bring in a bill entitled "The Agricultural Credits Act," founded on the "New Zealand Act." That Act has been brought into force at the present session—some \$2,000,000 borrowed, which will cost the farmers about 7 per cent. The McBride Government, after long years of waiting, appointed a Commission to ascertain and report on the best methods to help the farmer. That Commission made its report in 1914. It strongly endorsed and recommended the "New Zealand, Act." That Commission cost the country over \$48,000.

If the provisions of that Act had been in force eight or ten years ago, when money was cheap, our valley lands would have been producing double the value now being produced; a happy and contented population would be in occupation of the many abandoned homesteads throughout the country; the farming community would have been able to pay for their homes from the products of the soil. The necessity was just as great then, as now, for the application of the Act, with its provisions for cheap loans on long term payments. Premier Bowser has been virtually in control of the legislature for years, and if Mr. Ross, or Mr. Campbell, or Mr. Taylor, or Mr. Manson, now comprising the Cabinet, had any business knoweldge or cared a rap for the farming community, they could, have, years ago, brought in and advocated the placing on the Statutes such an Act: the Government could have obtained capital at a low rate and thereby have shown to the people that a sincere step was being taken in their interests.

In what correspondence school have these Ministers qualified as "business" men, that the Premier is now able to announce to the world that the Bowser Government will be henceforth a "business Govern-

ment?" That means (judging from the silence of these men as members, in past years in the House) that now, as Ministers, they will not dare advance any legislation which has not first received the approval of the Premier. Have we not had enough of a "one man Government?" What is the position of the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, in this "business Government?" His being allowed to retain his portfolio is a declaration by the Premier that his administration of the Department, under the guiding hand of the Attorney-General, had given satisfaction to the Premier. Mr. Ross, at all times boldly defended the McBride-Bowser policy of the Land Department. In his zeal to brand as untrue the statements made by the Liberals that the arable land along the railways had been given to land grabbers, he stated on the floor of the House, February 1915, that of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ million acres in the 6 mile belt along the 1200 miles of railway, only 847,785 acres had been sold to speculators. Is it not reasonable to suppose that these locations, these 847,000 acres (being over 18 per cent. of the total) would be the choicest along this railway belt? I submit, and I think you will agree with me, that of the whole $4\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, not over 12 to 18 per cent. is possible farm land, the balance being absolutely unfit for agriculture. We have the fact then, that the charges made are well founded and that there are no arable lands left in this 6 mile belt adjacent to the railways. Mr. Ross is not satisfied with the bald statement that this area comprises over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres more than the amount sold, he not only tries to leave the impression that this vast area is vacant land (except as to a few pre-emptions), but that it is open for and capable of settlement. The Hon. Gentleman does not stop here. On November 10th last, in speaking at Oak Bay, he made some most astounding statements. He knows, or ought to know as head of his Department, that there is not in the whole of British Columbia over 30 million acres of good arable land.

The Dominion Year Book for 1915-16, at page 164, gives the total area of each of the Provinces. It gives the total area of the possible farm lands in each Province as follows:

British Columbia	20 p.c.	or	45 million acres		
Alberta	.....65 p.c.	"	105	"	"
Saskatchewan	..60 p.c.	"	93½	"	"
Manitoba	.....50 p.c.	"	74	"	"
Ontario	.....25 p.c.	"	58½	"	"
Quebec	.....10 p.c.	"	44	"	"
New Brunswick	.60 p.c.	"	10¾	"	"
Nova Scotia	....60 p.c.	"	8	"	"
P. E. I.	.....90 p.c.	"	1¼	"	"

We can safely say that the above figures are not any too conservative, at least as far as B. C. is concerned. Other authorities give the possible farm lands of British Columbia as 30 millions and some 22 millions. Of course these figures would not include perpendicular farms or farms with a few mountain peaks or lakes thereon.

At the Oak Bay meeting the Hon. Minister of Lands proclaimed the fact that British Columbia still had — **vacant and unoccupied** — 192,870,720 acres, or 301,360 square miles, being 26 times the size of Belgium. In making the statement that this vast area is still **vacant and unoccupied**, he made it with the intent to lead the people to believe that these lands were **capable of occupation** as farm lands and capable of sustaining a large population. Was he truthful in making that statement? If you think he was, then I ask, what is your impression of the following statement? These are his words as reported in the "News-Advertiser" of the 11th November last:

"No other province of Canada or State of the United States or of Australia, can take stock of such advantage as British Columbia. Alberta, of which 28 per cent. is alienated, has about half the area of unoccupied land that B. C. has; Saskatchewan, with 38 per cent. alienated has not half the area and Manitoba, even with the addition of 107 million acres to its Northern boundaries in 1912, has but 3-5 the area."

Remember that Mr. Ross is not giving an address on Mining or the mining possibilities of the Province, or advancing British Columbia's claims as a game or hunting preserve, but he, as Minister of Lands, is telling the people of this Province and the world, of the vast area of **vacant and unoccupied** land

in the Province and making it appear that other provinces suffer in comparison.

If Mr. Ross wished to be candid when making the above comparisons, he would have given the **possible farm lands** of the different provinces as quoted from the Canada Year Book, and not included the lakes, glaciers and mountains, of which we have a plenty; he then could have truthfully shown that Alberta has 105 million acres against our possible 45 million; Saskatchewan 93½ millions, or twice our area; Manitoba 74 millions, or Ontario, 58½ millions. Ontario only estimates that 25 per cent. of her total area is possible farm land, or 5 per cent. more than B. C. Will the electors of B. C. who are of Ontario say that if Ontario has only 25 per cent. of her lands as possible farm land, that British Columbia has 20 per cent. of its total area possible farm land? I have no hesitation in stating that the comparison made by the Hon. Minister is misleading; it's unfair; it is not warranted by the facts; it is untruthful and made with the intent to mislead the public.

Will the Hon. Gentleman change his absurd tactics under the Bowser Government, or are the above utterances of an irresponsible Minister acceptable to the Premier?

Another of the many glaring half-truths contained in his address is "That during the period of the McBride administration, agriculture had increased 500 per cent." He did not state that dairy products in 1912 were \$1,270,000 less than in 1911 and over \$600,000 less than in 1910. He did not state that the value of meats for 1912 was \$340,000 less than in 1911 and \$270,000 less than in 1910. He did not state that the value of fruit and vegetables in 1912 was \$2,114,000 less than in 1911. These figures are to be found in the Budget speech of the ex-Hon. Price Ellison, February 24th, 1913. The Hon. Minister did not state that for the year 1914, there was imported into British Columbia 20 million dollars worth of products of the soil that could, and should, have been produced in British Columbia. The Hon. Gentleman did not make any statement at that meeting, as to what measures he would adopt or would like to adopt in order to prevent this annual impoverishment of the people.

The need of the people of British Columbia is a Government of honest, earnest men, men who are not allied with big Mining, Banking, Timber or Land Corporations, but men who will administer the country's affairs on economic business lines, and when the interests of the Corporations conflict with the interests of the people, curb the corporations with no uncertain hand and make them understand that they **cannot** and **must not**, if they wish to do business in British Columbia, continue to exploit the heritage of the people for the enrichment of the few.

I would like to believe that Premier Bowser has had a change of heart, that he honestly intends to give the word to his colleagues to play the game fair with the people, and one would think that by permitting Ministers of the Gospel to become members of the Legislature, he had a change of heart, but, I am afraid that the party is so closely allied with, and bound to corporate interests, that very little will be done, apart from an attempt to advance a few measures in order to gain a further lease of power.

The workers of this country will not be satisfied with the deathbed promises that have been made by the Premier. They know that the Conservatives have never been able, nor have they ever desired, to bring in legislation in the interests of the masses, which would limit the power over and the right to exploit the worker, heretofore always enjoyed by the elect, the money class, the corporations, the Conservative party.

We are told that the Liberals have no men in the field capable of administering the affairs of the Province. Well, as there has been only one man in the late Government who had, or dared express an opinion of his own, we think it fair to say that from amongst the Liberals there could be found at least men with just as much wisdom, with just as much energy, with just as good administrative ability, who are not tied body and soul to corporate interests, but who have gone into this fight with the firm intent to devote their time and talent to the betterment of the administration of our Province. With a few more men of the calibre of Mr. Brewster and

Mr. Macdonald in opposition, men who received such a handsome support by half the electors of the Province, who, by the ballot plainly indicated in the strongest possible manner that the electors are satisfied that these men at least, are worthy of their confidence. These two stalwart champions of the people's rights, along with Messrs. Williams and Place, have succeeded in a short time in bringing to light deeds of the late Government, which will be sufficient to sweep the administration out of power at the general elections.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

The question might fairly be asked, and it is being asked by many electors, "Where are we drifting?" To what extent will the present administration plunge the country into debt? On the 28th March, 1912, the Hon. Mr. Bowser stated in the Victoria Theatre that "The Public debt in 1903 was \$11,486,000. The Public debt in March 31st, 1911, had been reduced to \$10,790,000." He said that:

"To ascertain the net debt you must remember that we have a large sum on deposit drawing interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent., which can be chequed out at thirty days' notice. We have in the chartered banks the very large sum of \$7,552,000. To get at the net public debt, you must subtract that from the figures I have mentioned, showing that the net debt is \$3,250,000 approximately. Against that we have sinking funds against loans which practically wipe it out."

The Hon. Lorne Campbell, in his budget speech, stated that the net debt of the Province at this date, March 31st, 1916, was \$18,589,718. It therefore follows that since 1912 the debt of the Province has been increased from a point according to the Premier where it was "practically wiped out" to over \$18,500,000. Add to this amount the expected deficit in the 1916-17 estimates of \$5,357,000, the \$6,500,000 expected to advance to the P. G. & E. Railway, the \$2,000,000 loan under the "Agricultural Credits Act," and other necessary expenditures, such as interest on the Railway Bonds, it will be seen that our debt

will be at the end of 1916 some \$30,000,000. Truly, a four years' record to be proud of.

The "Colonist" of December 19th, 1915, contained the following announcement of Mr. Bowser, touching our financial position:

"I conceive the most vital duty resting upon the administration of which I am leader is, in the first place to adopt a sound business policy coupled with reasonable retrenchment until such time at least as the various problems now confronting our Empire shall have been surmounted.

"Money for the present can only be obtained at excessive rates of interest, and while I yield to none in my firm belief in the future of the province, in its wonderful resources and in its recuperative powers, once the normal conditions have been restored, still it must, in my judgment be our immediate task to make our expenditures conform to the present peculiar and unusual financial situation.

"Our watchword shall be 'Courage and Caution.'"

How can such a strong, manly statement be reconciled with the Budget of 1916?

In December, the Bye-election had not taken place. When the Budget was brought down the Bye-elections had taken place. It was, no doubt, found that in order to stem the strong tide of public opinion running against the Government, that the economy programme of December must go, and a resort was made to vast expenditure of public funds, even a greater expenditure than in 1915, in the face of a falling revenue. Surely the Premier does not think that the different constituencies can be bribed with their own money. If so, he is entirely mistaken. I am of the opinion that the electors will, at the first opportunity, no matter what legislation is brought down, no matter what promises are made for the future, no matter how much money is spent, no matter who the candidates are supporting its cause, cast their ballots in favor of an opposition, with the intent to over throw the Government, of which they have had enough.

INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

It has been, and is, declared by the Government or-

gans, members of the Legislature and Government supporters, that the opposition have failed before the Public Accounts Committee to show to the world that any irregularities have taken place in Victoria, although every assistance is said to have been given for investigation work. Are these statements true? Let it be remembered that for years the Government has had no opposition, no one to criticise or question expenditure, which, under the circumstances, to put it mildly, was grossly extravagant.

Mr. Foster, member for Columbia, in the session of 1915 asked a few questions of the Minister of Finance, the answers to which revealed the fact of the Hon. Minister of Finance trafficking in Government colony farm stock in the year 1912. Yet nearly three years elapsed and nothing was heard of it until February, 1915. The Minister retired from office but still sits as a Member of the Legislature.

When the directors of a Coal Company quarrelled over its internal operations a law suit was started and the evidence showed that \$105,000 of stock was given to the Hon. Dr. Young, one witness said for political influence. The Supreme Court, in its judgment, ordered the Stock to be cancelled and delivered up to the Company. The Hon. Gentleman retired from office, but still holds his seat in the Legislature.

During the course of the campaign of the By-elections, not one word was uttered as to the Government being called upon to pay interest under its Railway bond guarantees. In fact, the Hon. Thomas Taylor on the floor of the House, stated that the Government had not been so called upon.

Questions of Mr. Brewster on the order paper forced the unwilling answer that the Government did pay \$316,000 interest last January on the P. G. & E. bonds. The Minister evidently did not know of this money having been paid when making that statement, but when he found that it was paid, he did the only thing he could do, he did not admit that he was ignorant of what was going on, but said that his statement only applied to the bonds of the Canadian Northern Railway. Will the electors believe this?

Investigation has shown from the evidence given by Government officials and ex-officials, that the

\$300,000 for the Indian Reserves was paid without warrant or authority, that a number was given to the payment in the Public Accounts, which was intended to show that the vote was authorized; that the \$80,000 graft to Alexander and Read was money paid by a principal to agents for the purpose of bribing the Indians—children of the Nation—to part with a heritage for which the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway offered \$2,000,000.

Investigation has shown that similar rotten proceedings surrounded the purchase of the Songhees Reserve, when Matson and Helmcken got \$105,000 graft. Matson's evidence shows that money was lavishly thrown about—any Indian that wanted money, got it for the asking. Surely the electors cannot condone such actions.

Investigation has shown that a Government official, Mr. Hannington, of the Attorney-General's Department, received from Pemberton \$2,000.00, being half the commission on the purchase of the Court House site in Victoria. Mr. Hannington has resigned. Have the Government taken any action to recover this money?

Investigation has shown that not one share of stock of the P. G. & E. Railway Company was sold, but that it was allotted to certain Directors. No money was placed in the coffers of that Company from the sale of stock, or, in other words, the Company had no capital, yet this Company, without capital, obtains the Government guarantee on its bonds as to both principal and interest to the extent of \$31,710,000. That is, the people of British Columbia advance the capital to a set of Railway pirates to build a road to be owned by these Huns, and such a road! What is to become of it? It is a certainty it will have to be completed; if the country owns the whole capital cost, then why not the country own the road? After a thorough investigation, if it is found that these railway builders, on other people's money, have not accounted for the proper expenditure of funds from the bonds sold, bring an action against them to recover and take over the road and complete it, but if it is found that there has been no misuse of the public funds, see the undertaking

through on a proper basis with the country's interests fully safeguarded.

Investigation has shown that the Hon. Mr. Bowser and Sir Richard McBride entered into an agreement to oust the Hon. Mr. Turner from office and to seat Sir Richard in the palatial offices in London; that the Hon. Mr. Turner would get \$5000.00 to pay his private debts, we are told, and \$6000.00 superannuation allowance; his widow, if she survived him, \$3000.00 a year during her lifetime; and to Sir Richard the princely sum of \$15,000 a year and then some. The Premier refused to bring down the correspondence covering this underground proceeding under the plea of its being private and confidential. What can there be private or confidential when dealing with the funds of the people?

The question has arisen—Do the people of British Columbia want a million dollar office in London, a convenient place to shelve away politicians for political expediency, with its attendant annual upkeep of \$75,000 to \$100,000? What benefits can flow to the Province from such an office that would not flow to it from the efforts of a live business agent at \$5000.00 a year?

Investigation has shown that the Attorney-General excused those two poor chaps, MacKenzie & Mann, from paying the legal fees on recording a Trust Deed, by reducing the statutory fee from over \$14,000 to \$200.00, on the ground that "times were hard." Ye Gods! what an excuse to rebate to these two pirates any money, the men who above all others have bled British Columbia and all the Province white, the men who above all others have left a trail of misery in their wake. What next? Why go on? Nothing has been shown in the investigation? What more is needed to satisfy the consciences of the Government or its supporters, that everything is not right? If anything else is necessary read the evidence of Mr. Wilson on the contract of the Government buildings. That evidence, from first to last, shows beyond a doubt, that the Conservative Patronage Committee figured in the various contracts; that the lowest tenders were not accepted; that the contractor expected to be reimbursed for letting sub-contracts at a higher figure; that col-

lusion is shown between the Department and the contractor over the plumbing contract, and that McDonald wrote on May 20th to the Department that Hayward & Dodd were the lowest tenderers; that the Department wrote May 28th approving of this tender, knowing that lower tenders were in, and also knowing that the contract had already been let to this firm on the 2nd May for \$11,000 more than the lowest tender.

The question naturally presents itself—How much of this kind of juggling with the public money has taken place in the last ten years? Is it any wonder that the electors are crying aloud for an opposition, or a change of Government?

In the trial of the "People vs. The Government of British Columbia" you, the electors, are the Jury. You will, in a short time, be called upon to pronounce your verdict. You have heard the evidence and as fair-minded men, men who want to render a just verdict, you will cast your ballot according to the dictates of your better self, apart from all party affiliations, in favor of the candidate who is more likely to provide legislation that will mitigate the evils now existing.



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